

Bureau of Land Management, Interior

§ 3244.1

(b) Preliminary requests to communitize separate tracts shall be filed in triplicate with the authorized officer.

(c) Executed agreements shall be submitted to the authorized officer in sufficient number to permit retention of five copies after approval.

[38 FR 35097, Dec. 21, 1973, as amended at 53 FR 17372, May 16, 1988]

§ 3243.3-2 Requirements.

The agreement shall describe the separate tracts comprising the drilling or spacing unit, disclose the apportionment of the production or royalties to the several parties and the name of the operator, and shall contain adequate provisions for the protection of the interests of all parties, including the United States. The agreement shall be signed by or in behalf of all interested necessary parties and will be effective only after approval by the authorized officer.

[38 FR 35097, Dec. 21, 1973, as amended at 53 FR 17372, May 16, 1988]

§ 3243.4 Operating, drilling, development contracts or a combination for joint operations.

§ 3243.4-1 Approval.

(a) The authorized officer may, on such conditions as may be prescribed, approve operating, drilling or development contracts made by 1 or more geothermal lessees, with 1 or more persons, associations, including partnerships, or corporations whenever the authorized officer determines that such contracts are required for the conservation of natural resources or are in the best interest of the United States.

(b) Contracts submitted for approval under this section should be filed with the authorized officer together with enough copies to permit retention of five copies after approval.

(c) The authority of the authorized officer to approve operating, drilling, or development contracts without regard to acreage limitations ordinarily shall be exercised only to permit operators to enter into contracts with a number of lessees sufficient to justify operations on a large scale for the discovery, development, production, or transmission, transportation, or utili-

zation of geothermal resources, and to finance the same.

[38 FR 35097, Dec. 21, 1973, as amended at 53 FR 17372, May 16, 1988]

§ 3243.4-2 Requirements.

(a) The contract shall be accompanied by a statement showing all the interests held by the contractor in the area or field and the proposed or agreed plan of operation or development of the field. All the contracts held by the same contractor in the area or field should be submitted for approval at the same time, and full disclosure of the project made. Complete details shall be furnished so the authorized officer may have facts upon which to make a definite determination in accordance herewith and to prescribe the conditions on which approval of the contracts shall be made.

(b) The application shall show a reasonable need for the contract and that it will not result in any concentration of control over the production or sale of geothermal resources which would be inconsistent with the antimonopoly provisions of law.

[38 FR 35097, Dec. 21, 1973, as amended at 53 FR 17372, May 16, 1988]

§ 3243.4-3 Acreage chargeability.

All leases operated under approved operating, drilling or development contracts shall be excepted in determining holdings or control for purposes of acreage chargeability.

Subpart 3244—Terminations and Expirations

§ 3244.1 Relinquishments.

(a) A lease, or any legal subdivision thereof, may be surrendered by the record title holder or the holder's duly authorized agent by filing a written relinquishment in the proper BLM office. A partial relinquishment shall not reduce the remaining acreage in the lease to less than 640 acres, except where a departure is occasioned by an irregular subdivision. The minimum acreage provision may be waived by the authorized officer when it is determined that an exception is justified on